(ग) बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की मरम्मत के लिए पिछले तीन वर्षों अर्थात 1988–89 से 1990–91 तक के दौरान 3299 लाख रु० का आवंटन किया गया था जिनमें से राज्य सरकार ने 3096 लाख रु० खर्च किए । चालू वर्ष में अभी तक 529.45 लाख रु० का आवंटन किया गया है ।

Upgradation of Jaipur Airport

296. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question 934 in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 1991 and state the reasons for not upgrading Jaipur airport as an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): The Government is not in favour of proliferation of International Airports. However, the existing facilities at Jaipur airport are being upgraded so as to receive Airbus A-320/A-300.

Export of Cotton and its impact on domestic prices

297. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that without assessing actual cotton production Government allowed export of cotton to the tune of over 12.50 lakh bales in the cotton season i.e. September 1990/August, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result thereof the prevailing price of raw cotton has almost been 100 per cent more than that in September, 1990;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of Cotton yarn has gone up by about 25 per cent due to shortage of cotton and exhorbitant increase in price of raw cotton;

(d) whether it is also a fact that handloom mills are on the urge of closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir. However, there was an unexpected decline in the cotton production during the cotton season September, '90-August, '91 as a result of unfavourable weather conditions and severe pest attacks in certain cotton growing areas of the country.

(b) The average price of raw cotton in November, '91 showed an increase of about 51 per cent compared to the price in the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The average price of cotton hank yarn used by the handloom sector increased by about 30 per cent in November, '91 compared to the price in the corresponding period of last year. The increase in the cotton hank yarn price has also been caused by factors like increase in the cost of fuel, rise in bank rate, general price increase in the case of all commodities, etc.

(d) and (e) While there are no problems on the availability of cotton hank yarn for consumption in the handloom sector, the problem has been one of prices. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by pursuading the spinning mills in the cooperative, private and State sectors to supply hank yarn to handloom weavers at pre-budget prices.

Foreign exchange spent on jet engine workshop at Palam

298. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that $ 11 million in foreign exchange

have been spent by Indian Airlines to put jet engine shop at Palam Airport which have now proved to be complete wastage; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is already in use, if so what is the total volume of business handed by this establishment; and

(c) what is the opinion of the engineering department of Indian Airlines about this jet engine shop?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Jet Engine Overhaul shop at Palam Airport has started functioning since May, 1991 for handling of engines fitted on B-737 aircraft. The heavy maintenance and overhaul work of these engines is scheduled to be taken up from January, 1992 and it is planned to handle 40 engines in the shop during 1992.

(b) During the last six months, the shop has turned out 15 engines involving rectification work.

(c) The shop will fulfil its objectives of maintaining, repairing and overhauling of jet engines as envisaged in the Project Report.

Development of tourist places in Madhya Pradesh

299. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 55 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposal to the Central Government for development of places of tourists interest in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism have sanctioned projects related to construction of five tourist bungalows, one wayside amenity, two tourist lodges, floodlighting of monuments at Indore and purchase of water sports equipment and tents. The proposal for the construction of a tourist bungalow, a wayside amenity and a tourist lodge are under process.

Indo-Pak Agreement for banning Chemical Arms

300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have agreed to consider the proposal to ban chemical arms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the fifth round of Foreign Secretary level talks, held at Islamabad on 30-31 October, 1991, both sides agreed to consider issuing a joint declaration on chemical weapons, and to convene a meeting of experts of the two sides on mutually convenient dates to exchange views on a bilateral agreement to ban the development, production, deployment and use of chemical weapons.

Demand for providing better security to Embassies and High Commissions

301. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign embassies and High Commissions in the country have asked Government to provide better security for their diplomatic staff in the country; and